

FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR'S DESK

But God. I was reminded in an email this week about the ‘**but God**’ scriptures scattered throughout His word. I wanted to do a little search for myself of when and how often are we told **but God**. There are many, but here are a few that really resonated with me.

* * * * *

How is God working a ‘**but God**’
moment in your life?

My prayer is that we will be able to see
His hand at work in our lives and in the
life of JCS. In the midst of it all...

But God.

* * * * *

Genesis 8:1 says, “**But God** remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.” How amazing was God’s protection and care for Noah, his family, and an ark full of animals.

Genesis 50:20 says, “You intended to harm me, **but God** intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” Joseph’s story is full of many challenges, **but God** was working in all of these. From being sold into slavery, to false accusations. He worked them all for the saving of many lives.

1 Samuel 23:14 says, “Saul searched for him, **but God** did not give David into his hands.” Saul was relentless in his pursuit of David. God had plans for David that would not to be thwarted by Saul.

But God. I feel we are at a **but God** moment too. This season has been filled with uncertainty, fear, changes, and upheaval. **But God.** Just as He had His hand on these men of the Old Testament, He surely has His hand on us. In the midst of all these challenges, **but God:**

- Has blessed JCS students and staff with health.
- Has provided for our needs in a time of financial uncertainty.

- Has led extremely qualified and Godly teachers to JCS.
- Has made a way for all but four days of in person instruction at JCS.

These **but God** reminders seem so relevant and powerful today and not just at JCS. Our world has been faced with a pandemic, **but God** will not forget us just as He remembered Noah and the animals. Our country is in the midst of a political stage like it has never seen, **but God** goes before us. We face a time of economic hardship for many, **but God** will make provisions. I can’t help but remember the story of Elijah and the widow in 1 Kings 17. All the widow had left was a handful of flour and a little oil in a jug. When Elijah approached her, she was preparing to build a fire, make her last cake to share with her son, and die. Elijah told her God would provide and he did. She only had this small amount, **but God** allowed it not to run out.

How is God working a ‘**but God**’ moment in your life? My prayer is that we will be able to see His hand at work in our lives and in the life of JCS. In the midst of it all...**But God.**



Celeste Sprankle

Celeste Sprankle, Administrator

Whose Birthday is it Anyway?

Did you hear? Our very own Mrs. Marsha Carr, Elementary Faculty, is a published author! Her debut book *Whose Birthday is it Anyway?* tells the story of Piper Pig on the path to finding the truth about Christmas. It is illustrated by her daughter-in-law, Kelly (Kuchenbrod) Carr, a 2002 JCS graduate and previous JCS art instructor.

Her book is now available online at BooksAMillion.com and Amazon (or AmazonSmile and choose JCS as your charitable organization). You can also pick up a copy locally at Apples and Bananas Education Supply Store on Luray Avenue, AT Merchant Shopping at the Galleria in Johnstown, and Young Heart Books and Toys in Westmont.



Events

Graduation 2020

Congratulations to the Class of 2020! Graduation was held on June 1 at Oakland United Methodist Church. We lift them up as they've made plans (see below) and pray the Lord determines their steps (Proverbs 16:9).

Jacob Custer	<i>Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Political Science & Music</i>
Jarrod Fleegle	<i>Valencia College, Finance</i>
Megan Hodges	<i>World Race Gap Year</i>
Sydney Holsopple	<i>Employment</i>
Daniel Hostetter	<i>Liberty University, Government: Politics & Policy</i>
Iliana Hunsberger	<i>California University of Pennsylvania, Social Work</i>
Xuan (Abraham) Li	<i>Penn State University, Computer Science</i>
Joshua Werner	<i>Penn Highlands Community College, Medical Billing</i>
Han Zhang	<i>University of Utah, Game Design</i>



ROBOJAYS

Congratulations to the JCS RoboJays for earning 2nd place out of 47 teams at the FIRST LEGO League Competition on January 11, 2020. The team also received an invitation to represent our area at a tournament in Arkansas in late Spring. (The tournament was cancelled due to COVID-19.) Excellent job, MS Robotics Team! Team members include Elijah Williams, Simeon Parker, Jaydon Yoder, Lydia Hostetter, Brandon Carr, and Hope Ressler. The team was coached by Eric Yacko and Daniel Hostetter.



#GivingTuesdayNow 2020 - May 5

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who gave on #GivingTuesdayNow. The monies raised will offset the loss of Spring Festival due to the COVID-19 school closure. Ten percent of money donated will go to a Benevolence Fund to help JCS families who have been affected from COVID-19.



Feed the Need

Last winter, JCS choose to participate in a Feed the Need Campaign in place of the annual Winter Fund Letter Writing.

Feed the Need (FTN) is very similar in that students were asked to obtain sponsorships as a fundraiser to support our school and ministry. In addition, all students in kindergarten through grade 12 participated in a "Packing Party" on Friday, March 13, 2020. Students packaged 10,000 meals in just 4 hours, and it all fit in 42 boxes. What fun it was to participate in a service project here on Soap Hollow Rd, helping to feed hungry people locally and abroad! Of the packaged meals, 8,500 were shipped to schools and orphanages in Peru, and the remaining 1,500 were distributed in our community.



The local meals were donated to New Day Ministries, Mark 16 Ministries, The Big Table Dinner–Hornerstown, and St. Vincent de Paul Family Kitchen. Leading up to the packing party were weekly competitions to keep the excitement level high.

One competition was to design the FTN T-shirt. The winning design was created by Ella Harr, grade 2.

Events

#JCSTogetherApart

COVID-19 shut down schools meeting in-person, but students at JCS didn't miss a day. Four years ago, Administration began Virtual School Days to be used for school closures due to weather. We all know how Pennsylvania winters can be. Little did we know that it would be a blessing with the arrival of COVID-19. Gov. Wolf announced Friday, March 13, at 3 pm that school would close starting Monday, March 16. JCS administrators already had a plan in place, and school continued that Monday for all students. Thank you to our Administrative Team!

The Board of Directors showed their thanks and appreciation to Mrs.



Sprankle via social media with a photo collage. We recognize that she was instrumental in the success and smooth transition.

JCS is blessed with an amazing teaching staff. In Elementary, every student received weekly class time via Zoom and individual one-on-one time with their teacher. Secondary students received calls and personal cards from their teachers. Thank you, Teachers!

We held Drive-Thru celebrations for our PK and Kindergarten Completion Ceremonies and to recognize our graduates. It was much fun seeing the decorated cars and hearing the honks.

#JCSTogetherApart showed that even though we weren't in the building, we are still the #JCSFamily.



Senior Drive-Thru Celebration 2020



Kindergarten Drive Thru Celebration 2020



Homecoming 2020

JCS celebrated Homecoming on Saturday, October 3, 2020. The Court was comprised of 11 class representatives (underclassmen) and eight seniors.

Front Row: Solenna Mack, Gabby McGeary, Ruby Klan, Rachel Hartman, Alexi McDowell (queen), Reilly McKay (king), Drew Taylor, Nathan Hart, Noah Hurt, Noah Baker.

Back Row: Mary Hostetter, Alana Hinton, Casey Miller, Lillie Sprankle, Daelynn McGeary, Isaiah DiGuardi, Jacob Taylor, Elijah Kirk, Michael Taylor



Operation Shoebox

Johnstown Christian School held an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. Donations from students and faculty were collected for four weeks leading up to the packing day. Students chose various items from stations, handwrote a personal message, and packed 209 boxes! These boxes were taken to the Kingwood Fellowship Center to be shipped out. A shout out to the following student team who coordinated this project: *Amelia Shaffer, Sarah Huston, Grace Ressler, Unity Miller, Emma Engleka, & Mary Hostetter.*

#GivingTuesday2020 - December 1

Thank you to all who gave on #GivingTuesday2020. The money raised will go to the Students Scholarship Fund with 10% of the donations going into the Benevolence Fund to help financially-affected current patrons with groceries or assistance with other essential costs.

Restoring Joy

Thirteen students attended a two-and-a-half day virtual Leadership Conference hosted by Summit Ministries (friends of ACSI) on November 22-24, 2020. The conference was titled Restoring Joy: How to Have Hope in a Society Overwhelmed by Fear, Anxiety, Evil, and Unanswered Questions. Guest Speakers included Dr. Sean McDowell, Dr. Kathy Koch, and Dr. Jeff Myers.

During the conference, students learned tactics in defending their faith, evaluated the power technology has over them, and explored the problem of evil. Other topics included leadership practices, engaging homosexuality with truth and compassion, and how to support people facing mental health issues. Throughout the sessions, the students were reminded that God's redemptive plan is at work in their lives and the world around them.

Leadership Students: *Mary Hostetter, Noah Hurt, Jacob Huston, Sarah Huston, Emmaleigh Lushko, Kasmira Mack, Solenna Mack, Alexi McDowell, Grace Ressler, Allenna Shellenberger, Tyler Williams.* Not Pictured: *Reilly McKay, Elianah Parker*



Jenny Hostetter—Preschool



Jenny (Spory) Hostetter grew up in Soap Hollow. Her parents graduated from JCS in '60 and '62. She is a graduate of Messiah College with a degree in Elementary Education. Jenny has been a patron of JCS for 14 years and served in a variety of volunteer roles.

Jenny and her husband Clark reside in Hollsopple, PA, and attend Emmanuel Church. They have three children: Daniel ('20)—currently attending Liberty University, Mary ('22), and Lydia ('25).

Jenny enjoys gardening, kayaking, and being outdoors with her family. She is excited for the opportunity to experience the joy of learning through the eyes of four-year-olds and appreciates “how JCS has been a family to journey with as we raise our children...teachers that invest heavily into our kids and parents that encourage and pray with us.”

Patti Miller—Kindergarten

After being involved at JCS for over 18 years, Mrs. Patti Miller finally gets the opportunity to put her education degree to work at JCS. Mrs. Miller is the new part-time kindergarten teacher. She instructs the five-year-olds in mathematics, language arts, and phonics. Her husband Nick, children Emma ('16), Alaina ('18), Isaac ('21), Owen ('22), and Unity ('24) have all been supportive in this transition of Patti getting into the classroom. The Millers live in Windber and attend Emmanuel Church.

When not in the school building, Mrs. Miller enjoys reading, baking, and watching her children in sports and activities. “Johnstown Christian School has been instrumental in shaping my children’s character, and I am grateful that we have this school in my hometown.”



Alexa Coburn—Preschool Aid



This year, we welcome Alexa Coburn, who joins us from Service Adventure, Johnstown. Lexi is from Harrisonburg, Virginia, and is a 2020 graduate from Harrisonburg High School. Lexi helps Mrs. Marks in the PK–4 classroom on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. On the other days, you can find her helping at Saint Francis Sharing and Caring. Lexi loves playing the clarinet and dancing. She has an older and a younger sister. She appreciates the loving environment at JCS.

Art Show 2019

Congratulations to the following Best in Show winners (pictured below) from our December 12, 2019, JCS Art Show.



Noelle Lushko (Elem), Elijah Williams (MS), Emmaleigh Lushko (HS)

MS Drama Club

The Middle School Drama Club delighted audiences in December with their play *Angel in a Ball Cap*. Fourteen students were on stage or behind the scenes. The simple message of their performances was that no matter our station in life, we can all make a difference in the Kingdom of God.

Front Row: Luke Fleegle, Alizah Parker, Sybella Mack, Rachel Crissman, Elliana Maher, Zoey Stanton

Back Row: Anna Lushko, Lydia Hostetter, Solenna Mack, Jema Calasara, Dakota Wilson-Boyles, Kacie Morgan, Kylie Grigg, Ella Lushko



Regional Spelling Bee—Lancaster, PA

Three JCS students competed in the ACSI Northeast Regional Spelling Bee held in Lancaster, PA, on February 24, 2020. Lydia Hostetter (grade 7), Simeon Parker (grade 8), and Rachel Crissman (grade 6) qualified for this competition through a District Spelling Bee held in November. There were 45 students representing 25 AC-SI schools from 6 different states who competed at the Regional level. Lydia tied for 11th place and Rachel finished in 7th place which made her an alternate for the ACSI National Spelling Bee held in Washington DC. We are proud of our spellers for all of their hard work and effort; they represented the Lord and JCS well!



Region III Chorus Festival

This brother and sister duo from JCS represented Johnstown Christian School at the PMEA Region III Chorus Festival held at Central Cambria High School on February 26-27, 2020. Daniel Hostetter (grade 12) and Mary Hostetter (grade 10) joined their voices with more than 170



musically talented students from the 8 county area. Dr. Christopher Scott, chairman of the vocal music department at Slippery Rock University, directed the honor choir in a fantastic performance.

Tupelo, Mississippi

Jaiel ('21), Michael ('22) and Jeremiah ('25) along with parents Mike and **Artrese Taylor (staff)** traveled to Tupelo, Mississippi, in March 2020 for a mission trip. Two days prior to departure, the Taylors were notified that one of the youth pastors passed away suddenly. Planned events were changed, but that did not stop the Taylors from plugging in. Jeremiah played drums for the service while Jaiel and Michael helped run the cameras and audio.



Just when the Taylors thought it was not going to work, God showed up and started healing the broken-hearted. While they did not build houses, feed the homeless, or help cloth-

the poor, this trip did “show my children how to use the gifts God has given unto them to fill the need in ministry,” Artrese shared. When they felt like they didn’t do much, their presence alone was more than enough. They were a filler for the gap that was missing for their youth.

The Taylor family left Mississippi with no realization of the battle they would face upon their return to Johnstown. They were hit with the loss of a close family member and then a friend, and then entered into a pandemic. “God was really trying to show us we need more of Him and His direction,” said Artrese. “Our journey has been a rough one but knowing that we are not the only ones facing these trials and tribulations makes us pray harder and binds us together as a family.”

Artrese’s prayer is that “as the body of Christ, we do not only look at missions as only physical or spiritual work, but that we use both to achieve God’s purpose in someone else’s life. For we are here to serve one another and not ourselves.”

The World Race

Megan Hodges ('20) is spending the year serving with The World Race. She spent some months training in Gainesville, Georgia, and serving at the North Georgia Zoo, whose mission is “to bring people and animals to-

gether to glorify God, for the purpose of teaching and connecting people with God’s Creation and to each other.”

She also served in Foley, Alabama, alongside Samaritan’s Purse, who “meets the needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God’s love through His Son, Jesus Christ.”

In January, she will continue the Lord’s work by traveling to Central and South America. For more information on what she’s doing, check out her blog at meganhodges.theworldrace.com.

Common Ground Outreach

Mary Hostetter ('22), Sarah Huston ('22), Amelia Shaffer ('24), and Lydia Hostetter ('25) participated in a local service week this summer with Common Grounds Outreach. Students from several surrounding school districts including Conemaugh Township, North Star, and Portage also took part in this service week based at Camp Harmony. Some students served at the camp through projects such as building an outdoor worship center while others traveled throughout the community.

Mary had the opportunity to construct new bleachers at a local soccer field, Lydia and Amelia served at the Camp PARC warehouse, and Sarah helped to demolish and rebuild a bathroom. They also all spent time at Saint Francis Caring and Sharing helping to sort clothes and other items. On the last day of the service week, all the students involved traveled to Solomon Run Homes in Johnstown and participated in an outreach for the children. Children came from the housing development to play kickball and other games with the students. Through the week of service, the students saw the needs of people in their own area and feasible ways that they could help their neighbors. It was an amazing experience for them to serve alongside their neighbors in their own community.



Achievements AND Accolades

JCS Speech Meet

Congratulations to our Elementary Speech Meet Winners. The event was held at JCS on February 28, 2020.

FIRST GRADE

Bible – Elijah Harr
Poetry – Zachary Berkebile

SECOND GRADE

Bible – Ella Harr
Poetry – Matthew Moore
Fables and Folklore – Timothy Crissman

THIRD GRADE

Bible – Malachi Dean
Poetry – Anne Murchie
Fables and Folklore – Gianna Mallozzi

FOURTH GRADE

Bible – Benny Henson
Poetry – Levi DiGuardi
Fables and Folklore – Oriana Yoder

FIFTH GRADE

Bible – Jonah Harr
Poetry – Avery DiGuardi
Patriotic Oration – Caleb Miller
Bible Prose – Elisabeth Thomas

SIXTH GRADE

Bible – Caden Robertson
Poetry – Alizah Parker
Patriotic Oration – Rachel Crissman
Bible Prose – Anna Lushko

Spanish Honor Society Awards

Congratulations to several JCS Spanish students who at-

tained national recognition for excellent performance on the 2020 National Spanish Examinations.

Students from JCS earned a total of two medals. Congratulations to Mary Hostetter for receiving a bronze medal and Owen Miller for receiving an honorable mention. "Attaining a medal or honorable mention for any student on the National Spanish Examinations is very prestigious," said Kevin Cessna-Buscemi, National Director of the Exams, "because the exams are the largest of their kind in the United States with over 146,000 students participating in 2020."

In order to receive a medal, students must be among the top performers in all testing categories. Additionally, JCS recognized students for their excellent performance in the individual categories of grammar, reading, and listening.

GRAMMAR

Kasmira Mack

READING

Daniel Hostetter
Kasmira Mack
Alexi McDowell
Grace Ressler
Tyler Williams

LISTENING

Daniel Hostetter
Emmaleigh Lushko
Alexi McDowell
Eliah Parker
Grace Ressler

National Honor Society

Congratulations to the following students who were inducted into the National Honor Society on March 12, 2020: Isabel Calasara, Eliah Parker, Lillie Sprinkle, Reilly McKay, Rachel Hartman, Isaac Miller, and Alexi McDowell.



ACAA Soccer Tournament

Congratulations to the JCS Soccer Teams for an OUSTANDING season! JCS Girls Varsity finished 3rd in their division and 5th at the ACAA tournament. JCS Boys Varsity finished 2nd in their division and 4th at the tournament.



Miller Advances to Hershey

Congratulations to freshman Unity Miller, who finished 3rd at the District Cross Country Meet in Bedford and advanced to the state meet in Hershey.

ACAA All-Star Game

Congratulations to the following players who represented JCS in the ACAA All-Star Game played Saturday, November 14, at Belleville Mennonite.

Jacob Huston, Lucas Haynes, Ethan McDowell, coached by Dave Sprinkle



Alexi McDowell, Kasmira Mack, Mary Hostetter, coached by Derek & Lori Turgeon



Notice BOARD

Stay Connected!

Johnstown Christian School is on Facebook and Instagram. Join us for updates throughout the week. The Facebook feed is also on the home page of our website www.johnstownchristianschool.org.

ESTABLISH A MEMORIAL OR LIVING LEGACY FUND

If you would be interested in pursuing either a Memorial Fund or a Living Legacy Fund in order to honor a loved one, contact Celeste Sprinkle, Administrator, at csprinkle@jcsfamily.org.

Please call 814-288-2588 or email kmack@jcsfamily.org with alumni news.

Alumni NEWS

Engagements

Caleb VanGrouw engaged to **Lindsey Najjar ('13)** on November 27, 2020.

Travis Najjar ('16) engaged to **Kelsey Hunsberger ('17)** on October 30, 2020.

Joey Sepp ('17) engaged to **Nellie Kabler ('17)** on October 5, 2020.

Marriages

GR Gindlesperger married **Julie Orris ('96)** on August 15, 2020.

Joshua Patton married **Jackie Grasser ('08)** on June 27, 2020.

Josh Thomas ('12) married Ambra Rowles on October 3, 2020.

Births

Jason ('96) and **Vikki Crissman**

Daughter, Larkspur Clara Etta, on June 21, 2020

Loren ('02) and **Sarah Kurtz**

Daughter, Rosalie Grace, on October 21, 2018

Jeremy ('05) and **Mallory Ferguson**

Son, Finn Tucker, on November 6, 2020

Adam and Emily (Spory) ('09) Rudderow

Daughter, Essie Mae, on September 11, 2020

Keith ('11) and **Taylor Grasser**

Son, Noah Stephen on August 23, 2020

Updates

Josh ('07) and **Sarah (Hollingsworth) ('08) Varner**, along with their children Matthias (age 4) and Thea (age 2) moved to Orlando, Florida, this Fall, following God's lead for Josh to attend Jesus School. Josh says, "It's like the best worship and amazing conference teaching every week. I am meeting Jesus in new ways and it is beautiful." Josh is excited to be part of the Jesus School Choir.



Jeff Jones ('05) received his Master of Science in Education from Drexel University in December, as well as his Pennsylvania Secondary Social Studies certification. Jeff and his family will move to Taiwan this summer, where he will teach US Government at Morrison Academy, an ASCI school founded to serve the needs of missionaries and their children in Taiwan and throughout East Asia.

Deaths

Jocelyn Croft passed away unexpectedly May 3, 2020. Jocelyn was a sophomore at JCS where she sang in the choir. She was the catcher for Conemaugh Township Lady Indians softball team. She loved art, the beach, and turtles. Jocelyn loved animals, especially her dogs Lacey, Oliver, and Nala. She was a strong, beautiful young lady with tons of friends and will be sadly missed.



Memorials

*"Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with you all."
-2 Thessalonians 3:16*

It is a joy to receive gifts that are sent to acknowledge a loved one. We are very grateful for the gifts received from the following:

In Memory of

YVONNE GOOD

Darrell & Barbara Smith

In Honor of

MARY HOSTETTER

Louise Nofziger

In Memory of

CATHERINE HARTZLER

D.L. Hartzler

In Memory of

DONNA KEAFER

*Gerald Witt
Dwight Keafer
Todd & Sandra Crepeault*

In Memory of

MARIAN HOLSOPPLE

*Allegheny Mennonite
Conference
Michael & Terri Burgo
Group Genesis, LLC
Dennis & Deanna Hoffman
David & Karen Lehman
Melvin & Karen Lehman
Catherine Meyers
Deborah Meyers
Mark & Sandi Ott
Robert & Susan Stahl
Ruth Stevens
Joann Stibitch*

In Memory of

LORENE SAYLOR

Edward & Janice Ogline

In Memory of

DAVID SHETLER

Marlene Shetler

In Honor of

DAVE SPEIGLE

Dalton Blough



JOHNSTOWN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

125 Christian School Road • Hollsopple, PA 15935-8419
www.johnstownchristianschool.org

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
JOHNSTOWN, PA
PERMIT NO. 5

HOPE

HOLDING ON TO HIS PROMISES EVERYDAY

The Lord is mine, so I hope in him

LAMENTATIONS 3:24

JCS Theme 20-21